

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

One sheet of Replacement Drawings (FIG. 4) is attached at the end of this paper in order to provide reference numerals for the features illustrated in the original drawings. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Claims 6 and 11 were previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, and 12-23 are pending. Claims 1, 8-10, 14, 15, 17, and 22 are amended. Claims 1, 8, and 17 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal by placing the claims in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicants did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

Examiner Interview

If, during further examination of the present application, a discussion with the Applicants' Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, the

JMS/CTT/ktp

Examiner is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at 1-703-208-4030 (direct line) at his convenience.

Information Disclosure Citation

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner acknowledges the IDS filed on April 14, 2010, and has returned an initialed copy of the PTO/SB08 form filed therewith.

Amendments to the Drawings

One sheet of Replacement Drawings (FIG. 4) is attached at the end of this paper in order to provide reference numerals for the features illustrated in the original drawings. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 17-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language is not clearly understood.

In order to overcome this rejection, the Applicants have amended claim 17 to correct the deficiency specifically pointed out by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 16-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kodama et al. (U.S. 6,129,393); and

Claims 9, 10, and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodama et al. in view of Morain (U.S. 4,772,052).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 8, and 17

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of **independent claims 1, 8, and 17** has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a resin tube-equipped quick connector, including *inter alia*:

“wherein the press-fitting portion 28 is provided with the following portions along an axial length L thereof, one immediately after another:

a first truncated-conical-shaped portion 28T1 extending from the ring-shaped end face 28F on a tip end 28T of the press-fitting portion 28;

a first cylindrical-shaped root portion 28R,

a first truncated-conical-shaped annular projection 46 followed by a second cylindrical-shaped root portion 28R,

a second truncated-conical-shaped annular projection 46 followed by a third cylindrical-shaped root portion 28R,

a second truncated-conical-shaped portion 28T2, which ends abutting with a ring-shaped end face 18F of the connector body 18.”

Support for the novel features of **independent claims 1, 8, and 17** as amended, can be found, for example, in FIG. 4.

Regarding the Kodama et al. Reference

As can be seen in Kodama et al. FIGS. 1 and 2, this document merely discloses hose connector 27 having three truncated-conical-shaped steps 271, with a narrow diameter portion 272 and a large diameter cylindrical part (not numbered) between the first step 271 and second step 271. Thus, the hose connector 27 of Kodama et al. does not teach or suggest the presently claimed “press-fitting portion 28.”

Regarding the Morain Reference

As can be seen in Morain FIGS. 1-3, this document merely discloses four serrated portion 48 located immediately after the other on the distal end of the receptacle member 12.

Thus, the distal end of Morain does not teach or suggest the presently claimed “press-fitting portion 28.”

Regarding References cited in Previous Office Actions

Washizu ‘216, Nishiyama et al. ‘225, Ostrander et al. ‘383, and Bock ‘998 were cited by the Examiner in previous Office Actions.

However, no combination of Washizu ‘216, Nishiyama et al. ‘225, Ostrander et al. ‘383, and Bock ‘998 can make up for the deficiencies of Kodama et al. and Morain to teach

or suggest the combination of elements now set forth in each of **independent claims 1, 8, and 17**.

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of **independent claims 1, 8, and 17** is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Kodama et al., Morain, Washizu '216, Nishiyama et al. '225, Ostrander et al. '383, and Bock '998.

Therefore, **independent claims 1, 8, and 17** are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 9, 10, 14, 15, and 22 have been amended to set forth additional aspects of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

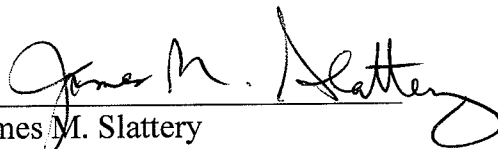
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated: November 17, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 

James M. Slattery

Registration No.: 28,380

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

Attachments: One sheet of Replacement Drawings (FIG. 4).

JMS/CTT/ktp 